



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE**

CINDY HYDE-SMITH
COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Lise Foy
The Mississippi Agriculture & Forestry Museum
1150 Lakeland Drive, Jackson, MS 39216
Phone: (601) 432-4500 or 1-800-844-8687
Fax: (601) 982-4292

'Small Town' Joins Mississippi Main Street

JACKSON, Miss. – The Mississippi Main Street Association (MMSA) designated the City of Small Town, Miss., an official Mississippi Main Street Community on February 13. Small Town, Miss., located on the grounds of the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum, is an outdoor exhibit that replicates a typical small rural town of the 1920's. Small Town has many of the same businesses that made rural towns vibrant such as a general store, print shop, cotton gin, as well as a church and school house.

"Small Town, Mississippi, is a unique treasure that we are fortunate to have at the Ag Museum," said Cindy Hyde-Smith, Mississippi Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce. "It depicts a 1920's town complete with a blacksmith shop, church, two-room school, and operating general store."

"Receiving the Mississippi Main Street designation is valuable as we move toward making Small Town a 'living' exhibit on a regular basis, breathing life into the buildings so visitors can experience the history of Mississippi agricultural towns," Hyde-Smith said.

Speakers at the designation included: Cindy Hyde-Smith, Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce, State of Mississippi; Joy Foy, Director of Asset Development Division, Mississippi Development Authority; Lise Foy, Director, Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum; Bob Wilson, Executive Director, MMSA; and Ken P'Poole, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

"Small Town, Miss., at the Ag Museum is facing some of the same challenges as many of our small communities across the state," Wilson said. "Small Town is home to many businesses and attractions that are not well-known to most Mississippians and many tourists."

"We will be focusing on marketing opportunities, placemaking, wayfinding, and recruiting creative economy businesses to join those that already exist in Small Town," he said.

"We are excited to be working with a true visionary in state government, Commissioner Cindy Hyde-Smith, and one of our more successful Main Street Managers, Lise Foy, who is now the Executive Director of the Ag Museum," Wilson added.

The Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum, located at 1150 Lakeland Drive in Jackson, is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For more information about the Museum, call (601) 432-4500, visit www.msagmuseum.org, or visit the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum on Facebook.

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Picture and cutline attached.



Cutline: The Mississippi Main Street Association (MMSA) designated the City of Small Town, Miss., located on the grounds of the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum, as an official Mississippi Main Street Community. Taking part in the presentation were (left to right) Cindy Hyde-Smith, Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce, State of Mississippi; Lise Foy, Director, Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum; Bob Wilson, Executive Director, MMSA; Joy Foy, Director of Asset Development Division, Mississippi Development Authority; and Ken P'Poole, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Mississippi Department of Archives and History.